products. That is a fact. Nobody can dispute it. But I doubt whether your theories as to the causation of this phenomenon or the remedies that you suggest for its removal could be universally accepted without demur. You say that it is *ipso facto* a disadvantage that any portion of the food materials of a country should have to be imported. As a general proposition, nobody can easily grant that. No country in the world can or does live in this century in absolute isolation from other countries. Every country will have to depend on other countries for something or other. Articles produced by one country will have to be given in exchange for other products.

You said something about disafforestation of lands for cultivation. I have explained the policy of Government in that matter in reply to a member yesterday and I have nothing to add.

With regard to minor irrigation, Government are appointing a committee according to the wishes of the people for investigating the ways and means of improvement.

Then with regard to tapioca, that is a very difficult problem just now. As a matter of fact, the price is so low that it is not at all profitable to the cultivator. I am at one with you in suggesting that it would be an advantage to have factories which would turn raw tapioca into a form in which it can be preserved for a long time. If leaders like you will come forward with practical schemes for working out that idea, I may assure you that Government will help you.

Your suggestion about the appointment of Trade Agents is noted.

35. Encouragement of the industrial development of the Parur taluk by Government grants.

MR. T. K. VASU MENON (*Municipal Council, Parur*) said that Parur was industrially one of the most backward taluks in the State. Cocoanut, sugar-cane, weaving and tile and earthenware industries could easily be developed in that taluk. The chief reasons why those industries had not been developed was the lack of technical education and want of capital among the people. Little or no education on industrial matters was imparted in schools.

With the growth of population and the steady increase in the number of educationally qualified men, the evil of unemployment was becoming greater and greater. The extent of arable land being limited, the occupation of farming could not keep many employed. The only way of solving the problem of unemployment was the development of industries. The first step in that direction was the opening of technical schools to impart instruction in weaving, coir-mat making and other cottage industries. Another step was the starting of industrial concerns by the Government. Sugar-cane industry could profitably be started in the Parur taluk. In the year 1104, the quantity of sugar-cane produced was sufficient to keep about 100 local mills engaged for about 3 or 4 months. But the people could not find markets for the molasses manufactured. The poor ryots could not start such concerns for want of capital while the rich were reluctant. The people could therefore fall back on Government alone They should therefore start

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industrial concerns in sugar-cane, coir, earthenware, etc., provide the necessary capital and appoint experts to run and supervise their work. In conclusion, the member requested that an industrial school might be opened immediately in the Parur taluk and that steps should be taken to start one or other industrial concern there at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Vasu Menon, the evil you have pointed out is real and the general remedy for it is easily prescribed. The evil is that there is unemployment among the middle classes, educated youths, and the remedy has been suggested times out of number. By starting industries, there will be a gradual absorption of unemployed educated young men.

The evil is one that is not confined to Travancore; but you find it all over India and various Governments and other bodies are trying to solve the problem of unemployment. We have been trying to see how industries could be either started or encouraged. I do not think, as yet, any Government has succeeded in creating sufficient industrial concerns to absorb all the unemployed.

You say that in Parur especially there are facilities for starting coir-matting industry, sugar industry and the manufacture of tiles. So far as coir-matting is concerned, it is an industry that is well-known in Travancore. If you go to Alleppey, you will find that this is one of the most important industries carried on there for a very long time. It is not a kind of industry which requires special encouragement from Government. So also in the case of tile manufacture. Go to Quilon and see the works there. These are not the lines on which special technical instruction at the expense of Government is needed in Travancore. In regard to sugar, I may tell you that the condition of sugar at the present time in the market is not at all encouraging. Government have one sugar concern on their hands. For the present, they are satisfied with it and they do not want to take up any more.

You say that there is want of capital and that that is one of the reasons for industries not being started in sufficient numbers. That is not a new theory and the way in which that difficulty might be overcome is by the formation of Joint Stock Companies, where a combination of individuals will be able to finance a big industry. What is done in other countries is that a number of people who can contribute even small amounts form a Joint Stock Company and with the money thus collected set up an industry. I do not want to discourage your enthusiasm for starting new industries nor do I say that Government are not going to help any industry useful to the State being set up. I merely wish you to understand that all industries cannot be started solely with Government money.

Your suggestion for starting an industrial school at Parur is noted.

36. The Public works Department and suggestions for making it more useful to the public.

MR. C. P. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Shertallai Taluk, Group I*) gave expression to the feelings of loyalty to the Ruling Family and of

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